Forecast for Friday and Saturday: Virginia-Generally fair Friday and Sat-urday; variable winds, mostly fresh south-

North and South Carolina-Fair Friday; probably showers Saturday; fresh north to east winds.

VOL. 14. NO. 267.

RICHMOND, VA. FRIDAY DECEMBER 22, 1899. 1

PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE FERTILIZER BILL IS PASSED

It Went Through Both Houses Yesterday.

TO ABOLISH REGISTER

This Act Was Agreed to By the

EXCITING AFTERNOON SESSION.

Some of the Senators Filibustered. Left the Hall, Were Captured, Brought in Under Arrest, and Finally Excused - General Assembly Adjourned until the Third of January.

The Senate and House passed the Fer tilizer Tennage Tax bill with some amend

nents yesterday. There was a lively debate ate over the act to abolish the position of Register of the Land Office. Opponent the quorum. There was a call of the House and six members were found and brought to the bar of the Senate. The

A joint resolution was passed providing for a joint repedial committee to investigate and report as to the contract recently made between the Davis Shoe Company and the Commonwealth for the

the 2rd of January.

THE FOLKES BILL.

Delegate Folkers bill to require telephone, telegraph and electric lighting
wires to be placed under ground in all
cities of more thaff 20,000 population, came
up before the House Committee on General Laws yesterday, it was set for
hearing on the 6th of January.
The measure will be fought by the companies interested.
A unique feature of the situation is that

A unique feature of the situation is that many companies operating in what were supposed to be towns having less than half of 20,000 inhabitants protest against the passage of the bill and say they will be seriously affected if the measure should

MAY CHANGE LAW.

A report was current about the Capito to the effect that if the bill to impose a tonnage tax upon fertilizers chould become a law, a measure will be offered to make the Commissioner of Agriculture elective by the General Assembly. The rumor could not be traced to any one who would state positively that he knew of any one who would offer the bill.

Several gentlemen had heard the repor

Several gentlemen had heard the report and one senator said he was quite certain the bill would be offered.

Commissioner Koiner and members of the Board of Agriculture who were seen had heard the report. They stated that they were satisfied with the law as it now is and would advocate no change. All they wanted was more money to make the Department of increased value to the farmers.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR. During the consideration of the Fertilizer bill, Hon. Elliott F. Danforth, one of the most prominent Democrats of New York, entered the Senate chamber, accompanied by Mr. Hen. P. Owen, Jr., the Governor's private secretary. On Senator Flood's motion, a recess was taken for five minutes and all the senators were presented to the distinguished visitor.

In the Senate. The Senate met with prayer by Rev. Dr.

2 N. Calisch. On Senator Wickham's motion, the House bill to amend the charter of th Virginia Electrical Railway and Develop ment Company was passed under sur-pension of the rules. The bill authorize the company to change the location of its principal office from Lynchburg to Rich-

House bill to authorize George F. Parramore to build a bridge across King's Creek in Northumberland county was

passed on Senator Blakey's motion.
Senator Wallace got through under suspension of the rules, the bills to authorize Fredericksburg to issue bonds and to authorize the council of the same city to apportion the cost of street improve-

House bill to prevent the obstruction of streams and promote the drainage of dams in Bedford, was passed under sus-pension of the rules, on Senator Claytor's

Senator Tyler got through under a sus ension of the rules, House bill to incor-orate Newport News Lodge, B, P, O, E.

A UNIQUE MEASURE. Senator Maynard introduced the follow-

That it shall be unlawful for any agent or solicitor to call at or enter any residence, office or premises which has notice posted at or near the front door or gate "Agents not wanted." The bill provides for a fine of \$5 for a violution.

violation or the act.
Senator Egglesten introduced a bill to repeal an act to define the powers and limitations of building and foan associations. The patron states that the object of the measure is to take from the associations the power to charge usurious interest.

interest.

A bill was offered by Senator Cogbill to

amend the act in relation to working and keeping in repair roads and bridges in Goochland.

Geochland.

Senator Tyler offered a measure to amend certain sections of the charter of the city of Newport News.

A bill was presented by Senator Eggleston to amend the charter of the town of Chass City.

Benate bill introduced by Mr. Glass to

senate on introduced by art, thiss to unspend for a period of \$\delta\$ days the opera-tion of the Land-Grabbers law came back to the Senate with a House amendment, providing that nothing contained in the bill should be construed as interfering with applications pending at the time the

bill is passed.

The Senate concurred in the House

HOUSE BILLS PASSED.

To incorporate Hampton Lodge of Eiks.
To amend act incorporating United Land
and Investment Company.
To amend charter of Potts Vailey Raitroad and Iron Company.
The bill to impose a tonnage tax on
fertilizers, which was reported withsmendments by the Committee on Agriculture and Mining, came up as the special order at 12:30 o'clock. All the amendments reported by the committee were
promptly agreed to. The principal
changes are to require the Commissioner
of Agriculture to give bond in the sum

of \$30,000, and providing that the inspect-ors shall be chosen from the several grand divisions of the State, and not more than one shall be appointed from any one congressional district.

THE PAY.

Senator Barksdale offered an americant providing that the salary of inspec-ors shall not exceed \$75 per month for

Senator James said at the instance of a prominent member of the State Board of Agriculture, he would move to amend by fixing the salaries at 50 per month. He had been informed that plenty of cas-

He had been informed that plenty of cap-tible men could be had at this sum.

Senator Keezell offered as a substitute that the salaries shall not exceed \$100 ber month. He thought some limit should be piaced upon the salaries, and if good men could be secured for less than \$100 the board would employ them.

Senator Morris was in favor of leav-ing the whole matter to the discretion of the Board of Agriculture.

Senator Jones stated that he was on-

Senator James stated that he was op-Senator James stated that he was ob-osed to naming any limit, but if this ras going to be done, he wanted it laced at 130, as he felt sure good men-ould be secured at that price. Senator Flood contended that the proper nen could not be secured for \$50 per-nonth.

Senator Barksdale said there are pienty of men capable of discharging the du-ties of inspectors who are working for

Senator Bruce advocated leaving the matter of compensation to the Board of

MR. KEEZELUS VIEWS. Mil. Kriszelles Stews.

Senator Keczell insisted that it would
be a reasonable precaution to fix the
salary of the inspector at a maximum
igure of \$100 per month. Being interrupted by Mr. Claytor, of Bedford, with

ie statement that many Commonwealth's ttorneys received only \$50 per month, fr. Keezell quickly retorted that many these Commonwealth's Attorneys also received salaries as State Senators. Mr. Claytor being a senator and Common-wealth Attorney too, the point of the refort was instantly noted and created a hearty laugh.

ed down, and that offered by Mr. Barks-dale to limit the salary of each inspector to \$75 per month and actual expenses was

An amendment, offered by Senator Mc Itwaine, of Petersburg, was passed, pro-viding that any surplus derived from the tonnage tax, over and above the excenses of inspectors and analysis, should be used by the Agricultural Board to defray the cost of experiments in plant pro-

bill by making the tax 25 cents instead of 15 cents per ten. He said three officers of one of the fertilizer companies here opposing this bill received an aggregate of \$20,000 and he wanted to know if the company charged this up to the farmers of Nierins when it thes the orice of fer-Virginia when it fixes the price of fer

fects in the bill. It made no provision for any work of the Agricultural Department except that of the inspector of fertilizers. He thought the measure should be so percoted as to make provision for other fea-ares of the work. It should enable the Department to promote fruit-growing, sheep-ratsing and other industries.
Senator Flood rupled to Mr. Jeffries, and argued that under this act all the departments of the work were fully pro-

THE BILL PASSED. The bill, as amended, was passed by the following vote: Ayes-Senators Blakey,

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

EDITOR HOWELL'S FINE ADDRESS

He Was Enthusiastically Applauded By Independent Club and Its Guests.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 21.-Clark Howell, of Atlanta, Ga., who, with several friends from that city arrived here last evening as the guest of the Inde-pendent Club, to-day visited the site of the pendent Club, to-day visited the service Exhibition and inspected the service which has just been completed and the other work in progress. The party and a number of friends who travelled in a other work in progress. The party and a number of friends who travelled in a special car of the International Traction Company, continued on to Nigaria Falls, where they viewed the falls and the gorge

To-night Mr. Howell was the guest of honor at the monthly dinner of the fu-dependent Club, and delivered an address on "The man with his bet in his hand."
Mr. Howell was listened to attentively
by the 300 members of the club and their guests, and his remarks were frequently

interrupted by appliance.

THE ADDRESS.

Mr. Howell had for his subject: "The Man With His Hat in His Hand." He

spoke, in part, as follows "There is the east; there is India." So spoke Thomas H. Benton in concluding one of the most memorable and prophetic addresses ever delivered in the United States Senate, at a time, just half a cenury ago, when realization of the magn the department of the magni-ficent opportunities of the great West had first dawned upon the nation, riveting the attention of the whole country upon its commercial hope with suggestions of re-sources surpassing the wealth of Golconia, and of riches beyond the dream of

The time has come when his burning thought can find expression with still more fitting application in a single change

"There is the east; there are the Philppines, the pateway of Asia."
On the day I received the invitation to address this distinguished gathering chance took me to the Federal military post in the suburbs of my city. The Twenty-ninth regiment of United States volunteers, then quartered there, and recently landed on the other side of the Pactic, had that day received orders for their trip of 16,000 miles. The troops were formed in full regimental parade in the

presence of thousands of spectators.

Leaning against a tree close beside me was a white-haired mountaineer, who looked with intent eyes upon the movements of the men in uniform. The regi ment had finished its evolutions; commissioned officers had lined them-selves to make their regular march to the front for report and dismissal; the bugier had sounded the signal; the halyard had been grasped, and the flag slowly fell, saluting the retiring sun. Instinctively and apparently unconscious my tall neigh-bor by the tree removed his hat from his head and held it in his band in reverential and the last strain of the national an-

them had been lost in the resonant tramp of the troops as they left the field. PATRIOTISM AND LOYALTY. What a picture was that—the man with his hat in his hand, as he stood uncovered

(Continued on Second Page.)

APPROVE THE CONSOLIDATION

The Raleigh and Gaston Stockholders Favor it

BY A LARGE VOTE.

They Empower the President and Directors to Close the Deal.

TEMPORARY INJUNCTION

Was Granted, But Subsequently Revoked by Judge Purnell to Prevent Any Action Toward Consolidation With Scaboard-Not Over Capitalized.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 21.-Upon appli ention this morning of attorneys for Chited States District Judge Thomas R. Purnell to prevent any action of the Raeigh and Gaston railroad stockholder looking toward the consolidation here to day of the various lines of the Scaboard Air-Line System.

A few hours later Judge Purnell grantes the parties a hearing and revoked the temporary restraining order in a written judgment, as follows:

"The order inadverently signed this norning is revoked, and the service thereof held to be invalid. In the exercise of a sound judicial discretion, the restraining raer is refused."

Upon the charge of Mr. Ryan's counsel that the interests of his client would be irreparably jeopardized by the consolidation plans of the Williams syndicate, Judge Watts, general counsel of the Sea board Air-Line, read the following dispatch from President John Skelton Williams to Thomas F. Ryan, under date of December 12th:

MANY OFFERS SUBMITTED. "We have already submitted all the offers, suggestions and propo-

sitions that any fair-minded man reasonably desire, including propositions for the arbitration by ourt or disinterested persons of the differences between us, and we have nothing further to propose. Our efforts to so ing further to propose. Our efforts to secure a peaceable solution of the question have been in no way reciprocated by you, but you have appeared to be determined to place in the way of this great enterprise, which means so much for this whole section of country, every obstacle within your power, directly and indirectly. At the solicitation of yourself or your attorneys, meetings were postponed, beging that an adjustment might poshoping that an adjustment might pos-sibly be reached, and your attorneys have endeavored to make capital out of these adjournments, by securing the sending out of newspaper reports intimating that these adjournments were forced upon us by your opposition. Your attorney visited a newspaper office in Norfolk Saturda, night and succeeded in having sent out over the wires a false statement to the force that we have a false statement to the first teach and succeeded in the statement of the first teach had "hald up" the meeting that the search of the sea effect that you had "held up" the meci-ing which was held in Raleigh on Sat-urday by your unexpected opposition, whereas our programme for Saturday's meeting was carried out precisely as we had planned. We have told you frankly that we intended to respect all of your rights as a stockholder in this system, and to accord to you terms as favorable as those accorded to any other stockholder. If you will join with us in an honest effort to work out this proposition on a wise, conservative and equitable plan, you have the opportunity of doing so, but if your aim is to obstruct, delay and injure, you can go ahead on your own responsibility.
We are prepared to protect to the fullest
and to promote the interests which we
represent, and you will find out this will be done. In conclusion, I will again re-mind you of the statement which you made to me at our first interviews, to wit: that it was not your intention, to use your own language, to "sandbag!
the situation and that if you did not fee warranted in joining us in our plan or reorganization, that you would nam a price on your stock, which your attor ney, Groner, informed me in the presence of your attorney, Page, had averaged you between ninety and one hundred. I would also remind you of your request, which you urged upon me in our last interview, that I should advise my fellow members in the Seaboard Syndicate to sell out their holdings at two hundred dollars per share for Seaboard stock, which you said you thought was a full price for that stock, and one which they ought to be only too glad to realize, MEETING HELD.

The meeting of the stockholders of the Raleigh and Gaston railroad was accord-ingly held at 4 P. M., pursuant to an ad-

Journment at noon.

The purchase of the preferred and common stock of subordinate companies of the system was report by Vice-President E. St. John, with the prices paid, and a reso-lution approving and confirming the same, was adopted by a vote of 14.957 shares to

The following resolution was also adopt

The following resolution was also adopted by the same vote:

Whereas, it is proposed to unite the railways and properties of the Seaboard Air Line system with those of the South Bound Railroad Company, the Georgia and Alabama Railway Company and the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad Company, thus creating a system operating railroads from Richmond, Va., and Portsmouth, Va., through the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Florida; therefore,

therefore, Resolved, by the stockholders of the Resolved, by The Stockholders of the Resolved, by the stockholders of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company, that they approve of the corporate union of the railways and properties comprising the Seaboard Air Line system with those of the South Bound Railroad Company, the Georgia and Alabama Railway Company and the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad Company, upon such fair and just terms to the stockholders of such properties, and which may be agreed upon by them, and they hereby authorize and empower the president and directors of this company to join in such agreements, contracts, mergers or consolidation or other measure as may be legally necessary or proper to bring about the closest physical connection and corporate union or merger of such properties for the accomplishment of the erection of the system so proposed.

The meeting was then adjourned till Jan-

proposed.

The meeting was then adjourned till Jan-

uary 17th next, when Chal action is ex-

NOT OVER-CAPITALIZED Capitalization of the Seaboard Per

Mile Less Than Half That of Southern BALTIMORE, MD., Dec. 21-Special. Mr. John Skelton Williams was in Baltimore to-day and manifested but little

timore to-day and manifested but little concern when told that Judge Purnell, at Raleigh, had issued a temporary intunction restraining the Williams' syndicate from further pursuing its plan for the consolidation of the Georgia and atama, the Florida Central and Peninsular with the Seaboard Air Line system. "Every step which has been taken in carrying through this consolidation," he said. "has been under the advice of the ablest counsel and the various actions which have been taken have not only been ratified by the Beard of Directors, but also by the stockholders of the several companies in general meetings.

ings.
There is no single step which has been taken to which the slightest objection can be legitimately made. I have just received a statement of the earnings of the Scaboard Air Line for the month of November which shows an increase at the rate of about \$1.000 a day over last year, which was the biggest year in its history."

tory."
The news of Judge Purnell's revoca-tion of the injunction was not received

until later.

Mr. Williams was asked what he had to say in regard to the recent statements in New York papers that the
capitalization of the Seaboard system
was excessive.

NOT EXCESSIVE.

"The total capitalization of the greater Seaboard system," said Mr. Williams, "under the proposed plan of consolidation, will be less than one-balf the capitalization per mile of the Southern callway.

capitalization per mile of the Southern railway.

"The total bonded debt per mile of the greater Seaboard system will be about \$18,000 per mile of road owned, against a debt on the Southern railway of about \$2,000 per mile of road owned. The preferred stock of the new system will be about \$1,000 per mile against \$15,000 per mile of road owned on the Southern railway, white our common stock will be only about \$3,000 per mile, against \$25,000 per mile on the Southern railway. In other words the total capitalization of the Seatboard will be about \$25,000 per mile including bonds and stocks, against a total capitalization of the Southern railway of \$11,000 per mile of road owned. These figures speak for themselves and require no further comment from us."

FRIGHTENED HORSE.

There Was Also a Very Scared Darky at Rueger's.

A horse ran into Rucger's last night That is, he got his head and neck into the

He was hitched to an oyseter delivery

He was hitched to an oyseter delivery wagon. The animal received an electric stock on crossing the car tracks. He made a wild dash across the street and through the window on the Bank street ide, where George Winston was engaged in opening and serving oysters.

Glass flew in every direction, Every pane was chratters. There were several persons at the oyster counter and when the erash came they were badly frightened. George fell down upon his knees.

As soon as the people recovered from their shock they saw a horse's head and neck protruding through the window. The snimal was taken away by the driver, he was not injured. The only damage to Rueger's was the loss of the glass in one window.

MONUMENT TO ROBERT E. LEE.

North Carolina Association Consider-

ing the Erection of One. WASHINGTON. D Carolina Association has inaugurated a movement looking to the erection of a monument to the memory of the late Gen-

inness for the nonunical.

The North Carolina Association has taken the matter up out of compliment to Mrs. Vance, widow of Senator Vance, who is president of the Lee Monument Asso-

CALLED FOR REPORT.

State Department Investigating the

Killing of Imboden and Golde, WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Department of State has called upon United States Minister Hunter for a report of the den and Golde, who are were killed by native in San Pedro, Honduras, recently,

BILL WILL NOT PASS HOUSE.

Should it Reach Governor Tyler He Will Promptly Veto

Most of the members of the Legislature have left for their homes to spend the Christmas holidays. They departed on an the evening trains yesterday. Many were laden with bundles or packages containing Christmas presents for the home people. It is not likely that the bill to abolish the position of Register of the Land Office will pass the House. Some members who have been doubtful as to how they would vote, say they will now oppose the measure. It is generally make propose the measure. It is generally understoo that Governor Tyler will veto the bill that Governor Tyler will veto the bill it passed, and the advocates of the act cannot possibly muster a two-thirds vote to pass it over his veto. It is practically settled, therefore, that the position of Register of Land Office will not be merged with that Secretary of the Commonwealth. There is some talk of the introduction of a bill to create the office of State Librarian and make the officer elective by the General Assembly.

rian and make the officer elective by the General Assembly. Senator Lyle, who was one of those engaged in the filibuster against the but to abolish the position of Register of the Land Office, was with Senators Mann, Glass and others in the room where they hid themselves. But Senator Lyle remained behind when his friends came out and he was not hauled up before the bar of the Senate. He showed up smilingly in the Senate chamber just after adjournment.

ment.

Had all the senators been present yesterday, the vote on the bill to abolish the position of Register of Land Office would have been very close. Senators Watkins, Tyler, LeCato and Wallace are all, it is said, in favor of keeping up this position, Delegate Newberne, of Norfolk county, who has been indisposed for several days, is critically ill.

LADYSMITH IS WELL SUPPLIED

Can Hold Out Much Longer Than Estimated.

TROOPS' SPIRIT GOOD.

Another Naval Brigade of 700 Men to Go to the Front.

ARISTOCRATS VOLUNTEER.

Belated Stories Are to the Effect that the British are Marvels in an Impossible Situation-Lord Roberts' Message to Amer rica Favorably Commented On.

LONDON, Dec. 22.-The Daily Mail

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The Dully Mall says:

"We understand that news arrived from General White to the effect that Lady-smith is well supplied with food and ammunifon, and can held out much longer than last Le 1 estimated."

The troops are described as in good spirits and anxious to fight.

LONDON, Dec. 22—4.45 A. M.—There is still no definite news regarding the fullitary operations in South Africa. Probably this is because the only cable that is now working is choked with official dispatches.

General Buller's casualty list at Colenso, just published, shows that 146 were killed and 746 wounded. Two hundred and twenty-seven are described as missing, and of these about forty are known to be prisoners in the hands of the Hoers.

to be prisoners in the hands of the Boers.
This makes a total larger than General Buller's original estimate.
Royal letters, signed by the Quewo, are being circintar by the no shirhops to the bishops of the various dioceses, authorizing a collection in the churches throughout England on January 7th, in aid of the fund for sick and wounded soldiers and their families.
Interest centres for the normal if the preparations to send out reinforcements.
The various city guilds have givea an additional circos for the expenses of the Imperial Volunteers, besides gifts of horses, ambulances, and other paraphermalia. The latest notable volunteers in-

naita. The latest notable volunteers in-clude two nephews of Lord Roberts, Major Charles Sherston and Major Max-well Sherston. Their brother was killed at

NAVAL BRIGADE. The admiralty have decided to dispaten another naval brigade of 700 men to South

another naval brigade of 700 men to South Africa.

It is believed that in mobilization of the Eighth Division the War Office will have recourse to some extent to the militia, it being deemed inadvisable to denude the home garrisons over-much of regulars. The Chamcellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, has issued a formal denial that any differences exist in the Cabinet regarding war expenditures. According to a dispatch from Cape. Town, there is a good deal of distress in the Orange Free State, owing to a scarcity of grain.

LONDON, December 21.- The Duke of LONDON, December 21.—Ine Diac of Marlborough, who is a lieutenant in the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, and who has vol-unteered for service in South Africa, will take with him 10 men and horses of his troop. He will personally furnish the

equipment for these men.

The Earl of Warwick the Earl of Dud-ley, the Earl of Lonsdale and Viscount Galway are among the other members of the aristocracy who have volunteered. the aristocracy who have volunteered for service in the campaign against the

CRONJE VERY RUDE. LONDON, Dec. 21. 4:39 P. M.—The War Office has received the following from General Forestler-Walker, the British

General Forestier-Walker, the British commander at Cape Town:

"Cape Town, Wednesday, Dec. 2a.

"Methuen wires that he has received a rude reply from General Cronje, respecting his representations as to Lieutenant Chandos-Pole-Gell, saying that this officer is regarded as a spy. General Cronje also states he will hold no further communications with Methuen,"

On December 18th, the British War Office received the following dispatch, dater Sunday, Dec. 17th, from General Forestier-Walker:

"Methuen reports that Lieutenant Chan-dos-Pole-Gell was taken prisoner last

dos-Pole-Gell was taken prisoner last Thursday when going to meet a flag of truce. He was waving his handkerchief in response and was unarmed."

TULI, Monday, Dec. 11—(Via Lourenzo Marques, Saturday Dec. 16).

Colonel Plumer, with a strong reconnoitering party of horsemen has returned here after a week's expedition into Transvanl territory. He reached a point fifty miles from Pietersburg in the South African Republic, but found no Boers, the country being, seemingly empty of men.

BRITISH DID MARVELS LONDON, Dec. 21.—Belated stories from Chieveley Camp. Natal, all concur in saying that the British did marvels in an impossible situation. The oldest war correspondents say they never say anything comparable with the bravery of the men and officers. The paval contingent created an immense furore, engaged the Boers single-handed and halling shrapnel and lyddite shells on the fortifications north of the town, in a value effort to silence the murderous fire of the Boers, while the British forced the passage of

The advance of the Second Brigade along the road leading to the bridge, in the fac of a deadly fusilade, is described a magnificent. The British forced the way across the fire zone under a perfect storm of bullets from the invisible Boers The patter of the builets on the dry plain, it is added, raised the dust like heavy raindrops on water. The heat throughout was intense. There are many stories of pecial acts of bravery.

The Queen has been greatly annoyed by

the unfounded statements that she is in ill-health and perpetually weeping. A paragraph contradicting these stories appears in the papers, which add that it has never been her Majesty's habit to "display grief like a hysterical school-girl. ROBERTS' MESSAGE.
LONDON, Dec. 22.—The morning papers
give prominence to Lord Roberts' message, and most of them comment edito-

rially upon it.
The Times says: "In an admirable mes-

The Standard says: "The British Empire is on its mettle, and is giving the world a hint as to the extent of its latest resources in fighting material. Nowhere is the demonstration watched with more interest, we believe with more satisfaction, than among our kinsmen in the United States, whose sympathy will be still further aroused by Lord Roberts' admirable message."

THRILLING INCIDENTS.
LONDON, Dec. 12.—Letters from British officers and soldiers fighting in the Transvaal and longthy descriptions from war correspondents that filter into print through the mails, teem with thrilling and rathetic incidents.

The Times correspondent gives a graphic account and explanation of the British disaster at Nicholson's Nek, where Carleton's column, consisting of six companies of the Royal Irish, Fusillers, four and a half companies of the Glouceshire Regiment and No. 10 Mountain Battery surrendered.

"Two hours before daybreak," says this correspondent, "while the column was in The Standard says: "The British Em-

"Two hours before daybreak," says this "Two hours before daybreak, says this an enclosed country, either a shot was fired or a boulder rolled into the battery in column of route. The mules stampaded and easily broke away from their haf sleep drivers. They came back upon the Glouceshire Regiment, the advance party of whom fired into the mass, believing in the darkness that it was an attack. This added to the chaos, the ranks were broken by the frenzied animals and they dashed by the frenzied animals and they dashed through the ranks of the rear-guard, car-rying the First and, Second reserve am-munition animals with them. It became a

hopeless panic.
HOPELESS PANIC HOPELESS PANIC.

It became a hopeles panic. The animals, wild with the shouting and the turnoll, tore down the Nullah into the darkness, and the last that was heard of them was the sound of ammunition boxes and paniers as they splintered against the boulders. The hubbuh of these few minutes was sufficient to have alarmed the enemy. By a streamous effort, the officers

enemy. By a strenuous effort, the officers succeeded in getting the men again under control, and when daylisht came they selzed the first position which presented itself, and which was about two miles short of the original goal.

They were forced to take advantage of the first kopie, as Boer scouts were all around them, and the day was ushered in with desultory firing. It was a sorry position which they had chosen, and the men ere in a sorrier plight. All their reserve ammunition was gone, and, though they had saved pieces of the screw guns, they were not able with these pieces to parch up a single mounting.

From earliest daybreak Boer scouls were reconnoitering, and about 8 o'clock

From earliest daybreak Boer scouls were reconnoitering, and about 8 o'cleck mounted Boers could be seen galloping in small groups to the cover at the reverse of the hill on the west. Later on strong parties of mounted men took positions on the far side of the two hills commanding the kopic from the west. About 9 o'clock these two parties had crowned the hills and opened a heavy fire at short range right rown upon the philesu. Our men made a plucky attempt to return this fire, but it was impossible. They were under a cross-fire from two directions, flank and rear. The two companies of Gloucesterhires holding the self-contained ridge were The two directions, hank and rear.
The two companies of Gloucesterhires
holding the self-contained ridge were
striven from their shelter, and as they
crossed the open on the low plateau were
terribly mauled, the men falling in

groups.

The Boers on the west had not yet declared themselves, but about 200 marksmen climbed to the position which the two companies of the Gloucesterfities had just vacated. These men abablitely raked the platcau, and it was then that the men were ordered to take cover on the steep reverse of the kopje.

As soon as the enemy realized this move the men on the western hill teemed on to the summit and opened on our men as they lay on the slope. They were absolutely hemmed in, and what had commenced as a skirmlah seemed about to become a butchery. The grim order was passed around—"Faugh-a Ballaghs, fix your bayonets and die like men."

There was the clatter of steel, a moment of suspense, and then "Cease firing" sounded, again and again it sound-The Boers on the west had not yet

ing sounded again and again it sounded, but the frish Fusiliers were loth to accept the call and continued firing for many minutes. Then it was unconditional surveyed, and the men laid down their again.

CAIRO, Dec. 21. -The train conveying General Lord Kitchener, now on his way from the Soudan to South Africa, via this city, was derailed north of Luxor. Happily, it only retarded the General's

arriving here. General Kitchener subsequently arrived in this city and was given a reception by Lord Cromer, the British representative in Egypt and others. He immediately boarded a train for Alexandria.

GENERAL WOOD TAKES CHARGE.

His First Act Was to Accept the Resignation of General Brooke's Advisory Cabinet.

HAVANA. Dec. 21.—Major-General Leonard Wood formally took charge of the Governor General's office at 9 o'clock this morting. His first act was to accept the resignation of the members of the ad-vistory cabinet of General Brooke These-ometals, after considering the question over-night, had decided to insist upon re-tiring. The decision meets with public approval.

Almost without exception, they had ren-dered themselves particularly obnoxious to a majority of the Cubans. One prominent Cuban general said to-day:
"The only chance General Brooks's sec-returies have, if they wish to rehabilitate themselves in the eyes of their country-men, is to resign and thus, for a time, bring forgetfulness."

COURTS CORRUPT.

The same general discussing General Brooke's farewell proclamation said: The proclamation was ill-advised. Cuba is bound in the course of time with feed and without war to arrive at a state of comparative comfort. No man has a right to regard himself as the sole cause of such improvements. As a matter of fact, under General Brooke's administra-tion the military authorities frequently over-rode the civil, and there is less civil over-rode the civil, and there is less civil government now than before. As for the courts, they are the same corrupt organizations and are virtually unchanged in any important particular. All this, in my opinion, most Cubans will atribute to the bad advice given General Brooke by his secretaries."

It is also believed that no governor will be averagined for Santlars department, but

the cold carping of some of the continen-ON THE SITUATION

Democratic Prospects Brighter Than in '96.

BRYAN THE NOMINEE

No Other Name Will be Mentioned

There is Great Diversity of Opinion as to the Nominee for Vice-President. CHICAGO. Dec. 21.-Senator James K.

Jones, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, looked into party at headquarters in the Unity building today. He assured everybody that the pros pects for Democratic success next year are brighter than they were in 1806. He said only William Jenings Bryan would be mentioned as a candidate for President in the convention.

be held. With reference to next year's contest, the Senator said:

REAFFRM CHICAGO PLATFORM.

'No doubt, the convention will reaffirm the Chicago platform. It will declare against impertalism and in favor of regulating trusts. I think, too, that it will condemn the efforts, which have become too commons, to control election by the use of money. In my opinion, the passage of the bill establishing the gold standard and seements.'

will aid us greatly."
The Senator said he never saw such a diversity of opinion as to where the nominee for Vice-President should come

Regarding the Currency Bill, Senator Jones said; dones said:
"I think the adoption of a gold stand-ard bill by the present Congress would have an enormous effect in shaping the money issue. It is a declaration on the part of the Republican party for which it will have to appears. A gold bill if

The Senator figures that the Currency Bill could command to and possibly 52 votes in the Senate.

Contest.

FRANKFORT. KY., Dec. 21.—The address of the Democracy of the State endorsing the contest instituted by Goebel and other candiates of the defeated Democratic instel, and giving the reasons therefor, was issued to-night. It is signed by former Senator Blackburn, chairman of the State Campaign Committee; Chairman Campaign Committee; Chairman Campaign Committee; Chairman Campaign Committee; Chairman Campaign Committee and Ex-

The Democratic party of Kentucky, through its several State Committees, has unanimously declared that the best interests of the party, as well as justice, demands that contests shall be made by all candidates on the Democratic ticket

demands that contests shall be made by all candidates on the Democratic ticket for the respective offices for which they were nominated. The Coamittee feel that it is proper that they should, in a concise form, state the grounds upon which they base their action.

"The State Board of Election Commissioners, at its seasion, issued certificates of election to all of the Republican candidates for the State offices, but the Board expressly declared in the opinion that it rendered that it acted simply as a canvassing board without power or authority as it construed the law, to inquire into the legality or validity of any contested voice. The Board expressed the opinion that if clothed with the authority to go behind the returns and determine the matters in contention, the certificates of election would not have been issued to the parties who received them.

of election would not have been issued to the parties who received them.

EVIDENCE OF FRAUD.

"We feel that in the light of the action of this Board the Democratic party-cannot do less than to carry its contention to the tribunal creeked by law for its determination. The grounds upon which this content is based consist of the protest against the use of tissue ballots in many of the overwhelmingly Respublican counties of the State. The use lots in many of the overwhelmingly Re-publican countles of the State. The use of these ballots is not only in violation of the letter of the law, but is in viter and open defiance of the spirit of the law, and the use of these ballots furnish not only prima facie but also conclu-sive evidence of purposed fraud.

(Continued on Second Page.)

Legislature has adjourned for the -The fertilizer tax bill passed the Sen-

Local,

State. -The Lynchburg highwayman sent on the grand jury. A rumored sale of the Natural Bridge

- A round of the Control of the Control of the Control of the Control of the Eastern State Hospiton.

- Dr. Hoy, of the Eastern State Hospiton.

tion.

—A Franklin county farmer accidentally blows his own head off.

—High Constable of Petersburg resigns and his successor is appointed. General. -Chairman Jones discusses political out-

-Clark Howell addresses Independent

as Candidate for Presidency.

REAFFIRM CHICAGO PLATFORM

Will Declare Against Imperialism and in Favor of Regulating Trusts.

The Senator would not say when o where he thought the convention should

THE CURRENCY BILL.

part of the Republican party for which it will have to answer. A gold bill, it adopted by the Senate and there is no doubt in my mind that the present bill substantially will be accepted by the Senate, will force the Republicans to explain what is only to the control of the senate will force the Republicans. what is on its face a stroke of treason against the pronouncement of the St. Louis Platform."

KENTUCKY DEMOCRACY

Issues an Address Endorsing Goebel's

man Young, of the State Central and Ex-ecutive Committees, and all of the mem-bers of those committees. It says, in

SUMMARY OF TO-DAY'S NEWS.

-Sad story of the Farmer family.
-Freight car fell in the dock.
-Horse ran into Rueger's restaurant.

-Kentucky Democrats endorse Coebel's

-Ladysmith well supplied and can hold out longer than estimated. -Another naval brigade to go to the

front.
—Duke of Mariborough enlists for secvice in Transvani,

The Times says: "In an admirable message to America and Canada. Lord Roberts has given an adequate and welcome expression to our national sentiments."

The Daily Telegraph says: "We feel sure the message will be welcomed in both the United States and Canada. Lord Roberts describes in apt words what all Englishmen feel. There is nothing like adversity to test the value of our friends, and the sympathy of the United States, as well as the magnificent devotion of our colonies, stand out in sharp contrast to